

From: Donald Wallace  
Sent: 26 January 2009 22:50  
To: Liz Kirk  
Subject: CONSULTATION ON FORESTRY PROVISIONS OF SCOTTISH CLIMATE CHANGE BILL

Dear Ms Kirk,

I give below our response (as two members of the public) to this Consultation paper:

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Responses to the consultation's four questions:

1. What are your views on allowing the Forestry Commissioners to enter into joint ventures, with the intention of participating in renewable energy programmes on the national forest estate?

In principle this is worth pursuing further but it must be remembered that the FC's primary responsibility is to create and maintain a timber resource for the UK. The recent upheaval in oil, gas and electricity have demonstrated how vulnerable the country is to the supply of such basic commodities.

2. What are your views on allowing Scottish Ministers and Forestry Commissioners to offer leases and cutting rights over parts of the national forest estate?

An exceedingly dangerous proposition as it would pass control to private companies whose essential aim is to make money in the relatively short term, vide. the current financial turmoil. Full control must remain with the government' through the FC's national enterprise. The prevalent desire to fund present day expenditure by gambling with unknown future incomes needs to be much more controlled and so I am strongly against this proposal.

Since it's post-WW II expansion, forestry in the UK has suffered from continuous major policy changes. There was major conifer afforestation leading to wide mono-culture, then 'financial' forestry leading to clearance / replacement of hardwoods; then the slow realisation that landscape design, species diversity, public access, multi-purpose forestry etc were all essential components. Most European countries have avoided these swings and their extensive, long-established forests show the results of this continuity of policy.

3. What are your views on :

(i) transferring the proceeds from leases and cutting rights to a not-for profit trust, for investment in woodland creation;

(ii) transferring the landlord's interest in this land to a not-for profit trust;

(iii) Ministers stipulating the constitution of such a not-for profit trust.

The subjects of these three questions are so closely linked I consider they would all need to be implemented but only if the FC is forced to relinquish its present role in running the national forest estate. If the FC did lose this role then free public access to such leased forests would be likely to end.

4. Are there other actions which need to be taken, or are there other changes in legislation which need to be made, in order to allow the public and private

forestry sector to contribute to Scotland's target of reducing emissions by 80% by 2050? If so, please outline what these are.

No suggestions.

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Yours sincerely,

Donald & Ann Wallace